

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****DATA TRANSFER DEVICE AND METHOD**

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A data transfer device adapted to transfer data from a data storage medium having at least one data storage element the data transfer device comprising a head block having first and second transfer elements.

The first and second transfer elements arranged such that, when, in use,  
10 the data storage medium moves past the first and second transfer elements said at least one data storage element is aligned with both of said first and second data transfer elements. The first data transfer element is arranged to read data from a portion of said at least one data storage element at a different time to the second data transfer element being arranged to read  
15 data from said portion of said at least one data storage element.